

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A contact area-sensor, comprising:
a plurality of image scanners, each of which includes an image scanning sensor substrate in which a plurality of sensor sections are aligned in a matrix manner so as to scan an image; ~~and~~
a connecting line having flexibility, for connecting the plurality of image scanners to each other; ~~and~~
a hinge member that rotatably couples the image scanners to one another,
wherein the plurality of image scanners can carry out simultaneous scanning of images
without changing their positions.

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim [[2]]
1, wherein[[:]] the hinge member is detachable from each of the image scanners.

4. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim [[2]]
1, wherein[[:]] the hinge member connecting the image scanners to each other allows the image scanners to be fixed at an opened angle of 90°.

5. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim [[2]]
1, wherein[[:]] the hinge member connecting the image scanners to each other allows the image scanners to be fixed at an opened angle of 180°.

6. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim 4,
wherein[[:]] the hinge member comprises:

a protrusion axes axis, each of which is protruded from one end of a
lateral face of each one of the image scanners;

~~a generally rectangular rectangle plate hung on the protrusion axes;~~
~~including a long an elongated hole created in a linear shape in a hanging direction for~~
~~allowing the that extends in a length direction of the plate from a first end of the plate and~~
~~a separate aperture formed on a second end of the plate, wherein the protrusion axis of~~
~~one of the image scanners extends through the elongated hole, and wherein the protrusion~~
~~axis of another of the image scanners extends through the aperture axes to pass through;~~
~~and a notch created perpendicular to the hanging direction; and~~
~~a biasing member that biases spring made of an elastic body, which pulls~~
~~one of the one protrusion axis toward the other protrusion axis.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim 5,
 wherein[[:]] the hinge member comprises:

~~a protrusion-axes axis, each of which is protruded from one end of a lateral~~
~~face of each one of the image scanners;~~

~~a generally rectangular rectangle plate hung on the protrusion axes;~~
~~including a long an elongated hole created in a linear shape in a hanging direction for~~
~~allowing the that extends in a length direction of the plate from a first end of the plate and~~
~~a separate aperture formed on a second end of the plate, wherein the protrusion axis of~~
~~one of the image scanners extends through the elongated hole, and wherein the protrusion~~
~~axis of another of the image scanners extends through the aperture axes to pass through;~~
~~and a notch created perpendicular to the hanging direction; and~~

~~a biasing member that biases spring made of an elastic body, which pulls~~
~~one of the one protrusion axis toward the other protrusion axis.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim 1,
 wherein[[:]] ~~at least one of the image scanners include a~~ includes at least one magnet, and
~~wherein the at least one magnet removably holds between the image scanners together;~~
~~which fixes the image scanners when the image scanners are overlaid with each other and~~
~~which allows the image scanners to be freely joined together or removed from each other.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim 2, wherein~~[[:]]~~ ~~The the~~ connecting line is internally included in the hinge member.

10. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim 1, wherein~~[[:]]~~ the image scanners can be individually driven for scanning images.

11. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim 1, wherein~~[[:]]~~ the image scanners can be sequentially driven for scanning images.

12. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim 1, wherein~~[[:]]~~ each of the image scanners includes a backlight on a rear surface of the image scanning sensor substrate, the backlight sequentially turning on red light, green light and blue light in a sub-frame period.

13. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim 1, wherein~~[[:]]~~ at least one of the image scanners includes detachable storing means, ~~which stores all~~ for storing image information scanned by the image scanners.

14. (Currently Amended) The contact area-sensor as set forth in claim 1, wherein~~[[:]]~~ each of the image scanners is provided with translucent/ lightproof switching means on the rear surface of the image scanning sensor substrate, for carrying out switching between a transparent state and a lightproof state.

15. (New) The contact area-sensor of claim 6, wherein a first end of the biasing member is attached to one protrusion axis, and wherein a second end of the biasing member is attached to the other protrusion axis.

16. (New) The contact area-sensor of claim 6, wherein a first end of the biasing member is attached to a one protrusion axis, and wherein a second end of the biasing member is attached to the plate.

17. (New) The contact area-sensor of claim 1, wherein each of the image scanners has a scanning face, and wherein the hinge member allows the scanning faces of the image scanners to be positioned parallel to one another at varying distances from one another.

18. (New) The contact area-sensor of claim 1, wherein each of the image scanners has a scanning face, and wherein the hinge member allows the scanning faces of the image scanners to be positioned at an angle with respect to one another, the angle ranging between 0-180°.

19. (New) The contact area-sensor of claim 1, wherein each image scanner can capture an image of a document that is brought adjacent the image scanner without the need for any relative movement between the document and any portion of the image scanner.

20. (New) The contact area-sensor of claim 1, wherein the plurality of image scanners comprises first and second image scanners and further comprising an output line that is coupled to the first image scanner, wherein image data generated by the second image scanner is forwarded from the second image scanner to the first image scanner via the connecting line, and wherein the image data from both the first and second image scanners is then output from the contact area-sensor through the output line.